

In the Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (New) A system for playing media items, the system comprising:

 a playlist server adapted to be communicatively coupled with the Internet, the playlist server having a plurality of playlists stored thereon;

 a content server adapted to be communicatively coupled with the Internet, the content server having a plurality of media items stored thereon;

 a rendering device for playing a media item;

 a set-top box in communication with the rendering device for facilitating communication of the media item from the content server to the rendering device via the Internet; and

 a remote control for controlling the set-top box;

 wherein the remote control is operative to obtain one of the plurality of playlists stored on the playlist server, facilitate selection of a media item from the playlist, and direct the set-top box to request the media item from the content server and cause the media item to play on the rendering device.

9. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control is dockable to the set-top box.

10. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control is dockable to the set-top box and is in wired communication with the set-top box when docked thereto.

11. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control is dockable to the set-top box and can be used to control the set-top box when docked thereto.

12. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control comprises a display and a keypad for facilitating control of the set-top box.

13. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the set-top box comprises a display and a keypad for facilitating control thereof.

14. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the rendering device comprises at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a DVD player, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.
15. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the media item comprises at least one of a song, a talk, a speech, a comedy sketch, a story, a picture, a video, a movie, and a television show.
16. (New) A method for providing content, the method comprising:
selecting a first media item from a remote control; and
providing the first media item to a media player via a network.
17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the media player further comprises a set-top box operatively coupled to a rendering device comprising at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a DVD player, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.
18. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
receiving a second media item from the network; and
playing the second media item on the remote control operatively connected to at least one of a speaker and earphones;
wherein the remote control is operative to concurrently control the media player via the network.
19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the media item comprises at least one of a song, a talk, a speech, a comedy sketch, a story, a picture, a video, a movie, and a television show.
20. (New) A method for obtaining content, comprising:
receiving, at a portable wireless device, a playlist comprising a plurality of identifiers, each of the plurality of identifiers identifying a respective media item;
selecting one of the plurality of identifiers;

requesting a respective media item identified by the selected identifier from a content server;

receiving the requested media item at a control device in communication with the content server and the portable wireless device; and

playing the requested media item at a rendering device.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the portable wireless device comprises a remote control operable to affect functionality of the control device.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the control device comprises a set-top box.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the control device is operatively connected to the rendering device.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving the playlist from a playlist server.

25. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the rendering device comprises at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the identifiers comprise titles of media items.

27. (New) A set-top box for obtaining content from a remote content server, comprising:
a wireless interface operative to receive directions from a remote control apparatus;
a network interface operative to facilitate communications with a remote content server;
a rendering-device interface operative to communicate with a rendering device; and
a remote control apparatus having a display and operative to display a playlist of identifiers, each of the identifiers being associated with a respective media item;
wherein the remote control is operative to direct the set-top box to request a media item associated with an identifier selected from the playlist of identifiers from a remote content

server, and the set-top box is further operative to direct a rendering device to play the media item.

28. (New) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the rendering-device interface comprises the network interface.

29. (New) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the rendering device comprises at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a DVD player, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.

30. (New) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the remote control apparatus is further operative to receive a list identifying a plurality of playlists, and further operative to select one of the plurality of playlists.

31. (New) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the media item comprises at least one of a song, a talk, a speech, a comedy sketch, a story, a picture, a video, a movie, and a television show.